

17 September 1968

Logistic Developments in the Panhandle of North Vietnam, 9-15 September, 1968Activities South of the 19th ParallelArmed Reconnaissance SortiesThis Week (9-15 September) *

384 sorties per day

59 percent in Route Package I

32 percent in Route Package II

9 percent in Route Package III
(below 19° North)Last Week (2-8 September)

297 sorties per day

66 percent in Route Package I

19 percent in Route Package II

15 percent in Route Package III
(below 19° North)For the Period 1 Apr - 15 Sep

359 sorties per day

57 percent in Route Package I

27 percent in Route Package II

16 percent in Route Package III**
(below 19° North)For the Period 1 Jan - 15 Sep

276 sorties per day

60 percent in Route Package I

25 percent in Route Package II

15 percent in Route Package III

Weather ***

Poor weather persisted over all of North Vietnam throughout the past

* The rate of attack listed for 9-15 September may be as much as five percent below the actual rate because some reports from operating units in Southeast Asia were not available at the time of publication.

** Beginning 1 April nearly all sorties have been flown south of the 19th Parallel.

*** Good weather - 10,000 feet or more ceiling, and five miles or more visibility.

Fair weather - 5-10 thousand feet ceiling, and five miles or more visibility.

Poor weather - Less than 5,000 feet ceiling, and/or five miles or less visibility.

USAF and DIA review(s) completed.

seven days.

Highways

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Trucks*</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (9-15 Sep)	380	47	59
Last Week (2-8 Sep)	299	77	34
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	675	122	77
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	534	91	65

Remarks:

Continued poor weather and the temporary, but widespread effects of flood damage to the highway system in the southern Panhandle contributed to the relatively low number of truck sightings and losses reported this past week. (See table above.) Compared with the weekly averages noted since 1 April, sightings and the number of trucks destroyed or damaged over the past week were about 45 percent below average.

There were no large concentration of vehicles detected within the area under attack this past week. However, several groups of 10-20 trucks were detected in widely separated portions of Route Packages 1-3.

photography of the southern Panhandle shows continued flooding in the basin areas along the coast and also extensive, but temporary, flood damage to sections of inland Route 15. Photography

* These are preliminary data, included to indicate trends in activity. Final data on trucks sighted, destroyed and damaged may be appreciably greater, as the above compilations are based on incomplete reporting.

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[redacted] covering areas around Quang Khe and Dong Hoi still shows signs of flooding.

Roadwatch Teams

	<u>Total Trucks Counted for Period</u>		
	<u>Latest Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>	<u>Weekly Average 1968</u>
Route 15 [redacted] north of Mu Gia Pass)	(6 Sep) * 0S; 0N	(1-5 Sep) 22S; 42N	161S; 140N
Route 912	(7-12 Sep) 30S; 36N	(1-6 Sep) 36S; 35N	N.A

Remarks:

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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Railroads

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Railroad Cars</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (9-15 Sep)	1	0	0
Last Week (2-8 Sep)	2	0	1
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	14	1	2
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	26	2	5

Remarks:

Attacks against the railroad and tramway south of the 19th

[redacted]

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Parallel was limited this past week with less than a dozen strikes carried out against these lines. The repeatedly attacked and heavily damaged key bridge crossings at Dien Chau and Tam Da were again struck this week as were several rail bridge crossings located on the tramway south of Ha Tinh.

Pilot reports and the most recent photography continue to show that the railroad between the 19th Parallel and Vinh is not being used much, even for shuttling between interdicted points along the line. Both important rail crossings at Dien Chau and Tam Da remain interdicted, and all but one piece of rolling stock noted along the line apparently has not moved for an extended period of time.

Waterways

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Watercraft</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (9-15 Sep)	723	139	133
Last Week (2-8 Sep)	336	45	73
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	446	70	80
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	343	54	66

Remarks:

Watercraft sightings increased this week with pilots reporting more than double the number of craft noted last week. Heavy water traffic was detected along the Song Nghen between the Song Ca and Ha Tinh, and along the Song Ngan Sau which leads southwest from the Vinh area.

Recent photography has noted two high speed coastal vessels on a small tributary of the Nguon Nay near Quang Khe. These vessels can

carry up to 100 tons and are believed to have a speed of at least 20 knots. The North Vietnamese have used these vessels in the past during bombing pauses to move material from Haiphong along the coast to points as far south as Quang Khe. Most recently they have been active in lightering operations at the port of Haiphong and several have been observed at Thanh Hoa. The use of coasters south of Thanh Hoa is unusual, and suggests that they are moving high priority cargo.

Logistic Activity Between the 19th and 20th Parallels

Low level drone photography [redacted] detected another recently improved and active rail-to-road transshipment and storage area located at Ga Cau Giat, only a short distance (10 nautical miles) north of the 19th Parallel. Five transshipment areas are in use with moderate amounts of unidentified material stockpiled in several of the larger ones. Serviceable transport equipment noted in the immediate area consisted of 20 rail cars, 2 probable truck-locomotives, and about 5 cargo and POL type trucks. On a nearby spur leading into the area two additional truck locomotives were noted pulling three camouflaged POL tank cars.

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The same photographic mission revealed about 100 motor trucks within a one mile radius of Ga Cau Giat, most of which were moving at the time on the several roads in the area. Included in this count were 19 POL tankers trucks, 80 cargo trucks, 27 of which had been converted to POL trucks.

[redacted] drone photography has identified three extensive and active rail-to-road transshipment area located relatively close to the 19th Parallel. These areas -- Tu My, Ga Cau Giat, and Qui Vinh --

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are all within about 20 miles of the 19th Parallel and provide the enemy with safe havens from which supplies can be quickly shuttled south toward the DMZ and southern Laos.

25X1 [redacted] uncovered the recent construction of seven new storage buildings near the village of Cong Thanh located on Route 118 several miles northeast of the Bai Thuong airfield. The structures are revetted and numerous personnel trenches are located nearby. In Cong Thanh village approximately 200 POL drums were noted stacked alongside a canal. These drums, probably delivered to the area by watercraft, possibly are destined for use at the nearby airfield.

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